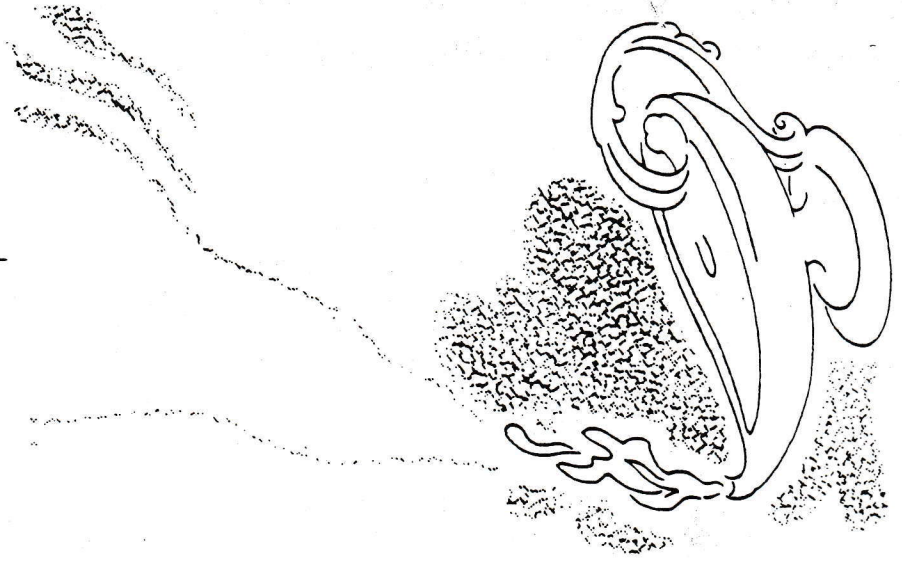
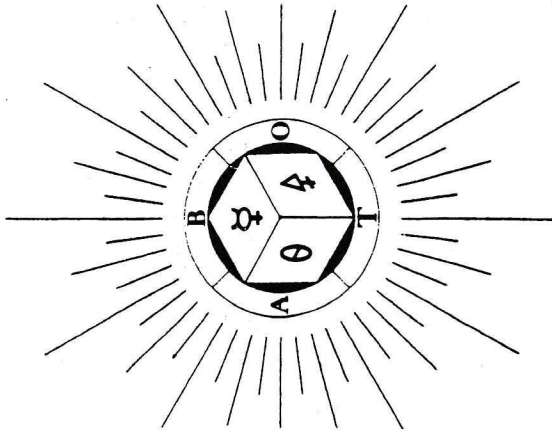


Associate Builders Initiation



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ASSOCIATE BUILDERS' INITIATION

THE IMPORTANCE OF RITUAL

Modern psychology has only recently discovered that which Ageless Wisdom has known throughout the centuries . . . namely, the importance to the Inner Life of man of symbol and ritual. Man communicates with himself and his environment through symbols and he participates with his environment through ritual. Greetings, farewells, socials, legal and parliamentary procedures, clubs, group meetings of all kinds, weddings, funerals, holiday observances such as Christmas and Easter, patriotic and sentimental celebrations, religious rites and ceremonies, are but a few of the ways that humanity puts the instinct for Ritual into practice.

Disciplined group activity of any kind absolutely requires the use of prescribed forms if it is to act effectively. Otherwise chaos and anarchy result. No plan could be made and effectively carried out without specific rules for harmony and cooperation.

The life processes of plant, animal and man follow definite laws of activity. Electrons whirl around a nucleus, the moon whirls about the earth, the earth with its sister planets follows a set pattern travelling about the sun, and the entire universe moves in orderly progression.

The myriad cell consciousnesses play their distinct roles within a physical vehicle for the fulfillment of their own life purpose and the welfare of the whole. When cooperation ceases, as in cancer, the organism disintegrates. The entire universe is a cosmic "Dance of Life" . . . a ritual, keeping contact with all parts of Itself through the ceremony of ritualistic motion. Even the expression of love is dependent upon the ritualistic sacrament which brings together two parts of a Whole.

There are those who have with devotion and effort followed the ritualistic Pathway. These Elder Brothers and Sisters have achieved direct perception of the Universal Pattern. They have learned the secret of attuning themselves to the Divine motion of Evolution through the unifying practices of ritual. A properly performed ritual forms a link between the aspirant and the more highly evolved Evolutionary Forces. The Inner School is enabled to utilize this linkage to make available to us spiritual energies for intensifying and hastening our own growth and control of undeveloped parts of our nature. The dramatic impact of ritual on the subconsciousness helps to shatter the inertia of old negative habit patterns and opens the Inner Gates to a reinforcement of conscious cooperation with the Divine Will . . . the Cosmic Pattern. Performance of these rituals is not obligatory. But those who avail themselves of this spiritual gift from our Elder Brethren will soon recognize what an astonishing aid such practices are on the Way of Return.

PREPARATION

It is best to have your own private room for ritual and studies. If this is not possible, choose a quiet corner in your home where you will not be disturbed. Always use the same place. There potent spiritual energies will build up and you will have a Sanctuary into which you can retire for peace and inspiration in times of stress. If you are so situated that you cannot have privacy of any kind, then set up your Altar in your imagination and perform the ritual mentally.

You will need: a small table or stand to be used for your Altar; a clean white cloth to be used as an Altar covering; an incense burner, incense and matches, a small glass basin of clear water and a white hand-towel or napkin. Place all these items on a chair or small stand next to your Altar. Place a chair before your Altar so that it faces East. A softly lighted room is best for ritualistic purposes.

These preliminary preparations accomplished, stand in front of your chair facing East, and say:

"I, ***(repeat your full name)*** this day and this hour, by the Grace of God and my own Higher Soul, do declare that I accept the responsibilities of associating myself with the forces of Light for the purpose of building the Holy Temple within. I take my first firm step in that direction ***(place right foot forward)*** as I attend to the rite of purification." ***(Turn to basin of water, wash your hands, dry on the hand-towel and return to position in front of chair facing East.) Continue:***

"By this symbolic action I cleanse myself of selfishness, resentments, critical emotions towards my fellow-man, self-condemnations and ignorant misinterpretations of my life experience. 'Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it.'" ***Raise both arms on high and say:***

"In the name of the Lord of the Universe and my own Higher Soul, and by virtue of the Sonship which I share with the Christos as a child of God, I invoke the Powers of Light and Love to help me transmute the dross of the old personality into the Gold of true union with the Father. By this invocation I receive the power to take the hidden forces of subconsciousness symbolized by this Altar ***(step toward the Altar)*** and by this symbolic gesture I prepare the way for developing self-conscious awareness and control of the universal forces which are within my personal field of life experience."

Take white cloth from chair and drape it over Altar. Then say:

"This affirms my determination to so purify my personality that I will become a strong link in the chain of Associate Builders of the Adytum, worthy of the privilege of travelling with my Fellow-Aspirants towards the Light."

Take incense burner, place in center of Altar. Put incense in burner and light. Say:

"I light the fire of mine aspiration unto Thee, oh Lord of the Universe."

Place hands over the burning incense for a moment, and still facing East say:

"Oh Thou, within Whom I live and move and have my being, send the Powers of the East, I pray, to aid me in knowing Thy love for me and my love for all Thy creatures, great and small."

Walk to North of Altar, face South, place hands over incense again and say:

"Oh Thou, within Whom I live and move and have my being, send the Powers of the South, I pray, to aid me in knowing that Thou art the Sun of Life and Light which guideth me all the way."

Walk to East of Altar, face West, place hands over burning incense and say:

"Oh Thou, within Whom I live and move and have my being, send the Powers of the West, I pray, to aid me in seeing all the cycles of my life experience as the richness of Thy movement in and through me."

Walk to South of Altar, face North, place hands over burning incense and say:

"Oh Thou, within Whom I live and move and have my being, send the Powers of the North, I pray, to aid me in dissolving all false structures of yesterday, so that I may know the Light of Heaven here on Earth."

Return to West of Altar facing East, which is the position you were in before you made the circle around the Altar. Place hands for a moment over the burning incense again, then look upward and say:

"Oh Thou, within Whom I live and move and have my being, send the Powers of the Above, I pray, to aid me in becoming a self-conscious instrument for Thy beneficent Will."

Place hands over burning incense again, remain in the same position, bow your head, and say:

"Oh Thou, within Whom I live and move and have my being, send the Powers from the Above to the Below, I pray, to aid me, so that all my works shall be a living attestation to the power and glory that reside in Thee."

Clasp your hands together, with head slightly raised for a moment and say:

"Oh Thou, Who abideth in all the directions of space and beyond, where art Thou not? As I have symbolically aligned myself with Thy whirling forces, help me, I pray, to become one with Thee in Thy dance of Life. Keep me in the motion of Thy Will, so that I will not tarry by the wayside. As I become a Builder of the Adytum, receiving the help of Those who have gone before me, so do I dedicate myself to reach out to those who will come after me. 'And I, if I be lifted up, shall lift all others unto myself.' Amen."

Now sit in chair facing East and picture Light reaching into you from the East, West, North, South, Above, and Below. Meditate upon the significance of these universal forces. Try to see this Light as the Guidance coming to you from the forces of the Inner School of the Builders of the Adytum as grade levels of consciousness reaching to the Universal Consciousness Itself. Meditate on this for about 5 minutes only. Now rise, clasp your hands and say:

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"Thus have I aligned myself with the forces of evolution, the principles of Light and Life and Love. With the help of the Lord of the Universe and my own Higher Soul, I dedicate myself to pursue diligently the Path of Return. Amen."

Finish.